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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,542	10/09/2003	Susie J. Wee	200315123-1	8755

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FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

BAUTISTA, XIOMARA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,542

Applicant(s)

WEE ET AL.

Examiner

X. L. Bautista

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-45 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brin* (US 2003/0001890 A1) *Baker* (US 5,686,957) and *Aoki et al* (US 2004/0172252 A1).**

Claims 1, 22 and 34:

Brin discloses a system and method for interactive communication among a plurality of users. Brin teaches that the system enables users to perceive and participate in a multiple real-world conversational characteristics, such as proximity and orientation of a listener, emphasis by a speaker, importance of a speaker, reputation of a speaker, filtering conversations, etc. The system detects

multiple communication interactions among the individuals present in the environment and maintain an interest thread for each communication interaction (abstract; p. 1, par. 0011-p. 2; par. 0012-0019, 0028; p. 3, par. 0033). The system captures a set of media data for each interest thread and combines it in response to the activities of a subset of the individuals associated with the interest thread (p. 4, par. 0065-0069, 0074-0075; p. 5, par. 0076-0082; figs. 5, 7, 14, 15).

Brin does not teach a first and second sets of sensing and rendering components that cover the physical movements of multiple individuals present in respective first and second environments. However, Baker discloses a teleconferencing system having a first set of sensing and rendering components (microphones, video cameras, computers, etc.) that cover the voice and physical movements of a plurality of participants present in a first environment; and a second set of sensing and rendering components that cover the voice and physical movements of a plurality of participants present in a second environment (abstract; col. 1, lines 16-30; col. 7, lines 1-25). The system has components that detect the sound of a participant speaking and components that detect the movement or gestures of the speaker (col. 5, lines 9-67; col. 6, lines 1-67). The system has an interest thread detector that detects communication interactions involving one or more participants (col. 1, lines 16-30; col. 5, lines 9-13, 16-67; col. 6, lines 1-67). The system has a communication provider that captures the media data, combines the

captured media data and communicates the combined media data to the rendering components (col. 9, lines 14-67; col. 10, lines 10-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brin's interactive communication system to include Baker's teaching of using a plurality of sensing and rendering components to capture the audio and movements of a group of participants in a teleconferencing environment because as Baker says, manual manipulation of multiple video cameras and other components is labor intensive and using a set of sensing and rendering components around a conference table is much more efficient for video image capture of surrounding selected participants.

Brin/Baker does not teach detecting and maintaining an interest thread for each detected communication interaction and combining captured media data in response to respective activities of each individual involved in the respective multiple communication interactions of individuals present in an environment. However, Aoki discloses a system and method for identifying conversations among multiple users. Aoki teaches detecting multiple communication interactions and maintaining interest threads for each detected communication interaction (p. 1, par. 0011, 0012; p. 2, par. 0032-0034; p. 3, par. 0041-0047, 0049; p. 5, par. 0064, 0068-0071; p. 8, par. 0101; p. 13, par. 0166, 0167). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify Brin/Baker's interactive communication system to include Aoki's teaching of combining captured media data in response to the users' respective activities because as Aoki explains, meetings have groups and subgroups of people carrying on separate conversations and each subgroup maintains a conversational floor, and by detecting, maintaining and combining multiple captured media data, the system enables multiple people to participate and maintain a conversational floor, while at the same time each member/subgroup can maintain awareness of the primary group conversation.

Claims 2, 23 and 35:

See claim 1. Brin teaches selection of a subset of sensing and rendering components for use for each interest thread (p. 4, par. 0065-0069, 0074-0075; p. 5, par. 0076-0082; figs. 5, 7, 14, 15).

Claims 3, 24 and 36:

Brin teaches speech levels of the individuals (p. 2, par. 0012-0019).

Claims 4, 25 and 37:

Brin teaches selective filtering based on emphasis expressed by other speakers. Brin teaches emphasis such as gesturing (p. 5, par. 0076).

Claims 5, 18-20, 26 and 38:

Brin teaches activities including movements by the individuals (p. 2, par. 0019, 0021, 0032; p. 5, par. 0080, 0083; p. 8, par. 0111).

Claims 6, 27 and 39:

Brin teaches activities including locations of the individuals (p. 6, par. 0094).

Claims 7, 28 and 40:

Brin teaches that the system refines the media data in response to the activities of the individuals (p. 2, par. 0013-0026, 0031, 0034).

Claims 8, 29 and 41:

Brin teaches history of the communication interactions (p. 11, par. 0157; p. 12, par. 0172).

Claim 9:

Brin teaches communication interaction pertaining to an artifact in the rich media environment (p. 2, par. 0018; p. 3, par. 0037-0038).

Claims 10-13, 30, 31, 42 and 43:

Brin teaches that the system keeps track of each user's entry, which is displayed in conversation display spaces (writing surfaces) and updated with every entry (records a history of the space's content over time), (figs. 4B, 5A, 5B; p. 7, par. 0099-0108).

Claims 14, 15, 32, 33, 44 and 45:

See claim 1. Brin teaches detection of multiple activities (audio, gestures, movement, etc.) and creation of interest areas for each detected activity (p. 5, par. 0076; p. 7, par. 0099-0108; figs. 5A-10).

Claims 16 and 17:

See claim 1. Brin teaches communication interactions among two or more individuals in two or more of the rich media environments (p. 16, par. 0241; figs. 5A-10, 14, 15).

Claim 21:

See claim 1. Brin teaches one or more individuals in remote locations (p. 1, par. 0004-0006).

Conclusion


4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will

the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to X. L. Bautista whose telephone number is (571) 272-4132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



X. L. Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlb
June 21, 2007